

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01

/083 W

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R 040716 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0683

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CNO, WASHDC

DIA, WASHDC

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

USDAO CANBERRA

USNAVCOMSTA HAROLD E. HOLT

DOD/ WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, AS, US

SUBJ: BULLETIN STORY " WHICH WAY WITH THE USA?"

1. THE WIDELY- CIRCULATED WEEKLY MAGAZINE THE BULLETIN CARRIES IN ITS CURRENT EDITION WHICH APPEARED ON NEWS STANDS APRIL 4, A FIVE- PAGE INTERPRETIVE STORY ON STATE OF U. S.- AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS. PORTIONS OF STORY ARE WRITTEN BY WALLY CROUCH, PETER SAMUELS AND ALLAN REID. ALTHOUGH STORY CONTAINS GOOD NUMBER OF INACCURACIES AND IS IN PART SPECULATIVE, IT COVERS IN SOME DETAIL MAJOR SUBJECTS IN US- AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS SINCE NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT INSTALLED IN DECEMBER 1972.

2. CROUCH PORTION DEALS MAINLY WITH OVER- ALL VIEW OF U. S.- AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS AND REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO PROPOSED GRIPS TO WASHINGTON BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM AND DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD. IN THIS
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CONNECTION CROUCH NOTES DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATEMENT THAT OUR RELATIONS ARE " COOL " AS A RESULT OF WHITLAM LETTER IN DEC. AND THREE MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS ON VIETNAM IN JANUARY. HE SUGGESTS POSSIBLE TOPICS OF BARNARD/ WHITLAM VISITS WILL BE STATUS OF U. S. AND JOINT FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA AND FUTURE SHAPE OF SEATO. HE ALSO QUOTES DFA SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT PRESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE IS FULL UNTIL JULY WHEN NEW LIST OF APPOINTMENTS WILL BE DRAWN UP TO COVER REMAINDER OF YEAR.

3. SAMUELS' SECTION IS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF FACILITIES AND REHASHES INFORMATION ALREADY REPORTED. IN COMMENTING ON BARNARD' S EXPRESSED DESIRE TO " RE-NEGOTIATE " THE AGREEMENTS COVERING FACILITIES, SAMUELS QUOTES A PENTAGON OFFICIAL TO THE EFFECT THAT USG WOULD RATHER CLOSE DOWN FACILITIES THAN " DISENCODE " THEIR TRAFFIC. SAMUELS REFERS TO NORTHWEST CAPE STATION AS THE " POTENTIAL BOMB " IN OUR RELATIONS AND THAT PINE GAP, NURRANGER (NEAR WOOMERA) AND OMEGA ARE MERELY " POLITICAL FIRECRACKERS ". HE CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT A MAJORITY OF THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTORATE WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT THIS DIRECT INVOLVEMENT (EXISTENCE OF NORTHWEST CAPE STATION AND JOINT FACILITIES) BY AUSTRALIA IN THE U. S. NUCLEAR DETERENT WEAPONS SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY IF AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES ARE RELATIVE WEAK."

4. SECTION ON OMEGA WRITTEN BY REID DEALS MAINLY WITH CURRENT STATUS OF CONSIDERATION WITHIN GOA, INCLUDING RECENT DECISION TO REFER IT TO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

5. SAMUELS MENTIONS FOUR- PAGE " FACT SHEET " ON U. S. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION, NORTHWEST CAPE, WHICH HE STATES HAS BEEN CLEARED FOR OPEN PUBLICATION BY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. EMBASSY REQUESTS COPY OF THIS PUBLICATION.

6. COPY OF ENTIRE BULLETIN ARTICLE SENT AIR POUCH APRIL 4. RICE

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER01948
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730432/aaaahlxz.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <11-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971119
Subject: BULLETIN STORY " WHICH WAY WITH THE USA?"
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, AS, US
To: CINCPAC FOR POLAD
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EA
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SECSTATE WASHDC

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Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005